



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 25, 2012

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a joint Land Use and Quality of Life committee meeting on April 23, 2012, during which a public discussion was held on the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act. The advisory board members heard from representatives both for and against the proposal. Both sides presented formidable arguments. After deliberation, the UCAB voted 6 to 5, with 2 abstaining, in favor of supporting the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act.

The majority cited the need to help raise revenue to offset potential shifting of teacher pension responsibilities and the unfavorable effects of the Maryland legislature's "Doomsday" budget. It was acknowledged that most, if not all, of the surrounding jurisdictions also have similar legislation in place and it would be a missed opportunity by "leaving money on the table".

The minority cited the 2010 election in which the voters rejected the Ambulance Fee and the divisive nature of the issue—one that cuts a deeper wedge between career fire fighters and the volunteers.

We realize that this is difficult situation for both County Executive Leggett and the County Council and we thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Isiah Leggett